



## NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 2433 N.W. 24<sup>th</sup> St. – LINCOLN, NE 68524-1801

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### SEVERE WEATHER POSTER CONTEST WINNERS NAMED

**LINCOLN** – **Brynn Wortmann**, 10, a fourth grade student from Holy Trinity in Hartington, earned first place with her poster: “Lightning is Frightening ... Respect It” in the annual Severe Weather Poster Contest sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM), the National Weather Service (NWS), and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

The contest was open to fourth grade students in Nebraska. The top four finishers will be recognized by **Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman** at a proclamation signing for Severe Weather Awareness Week at the State Capitol on Wednesday (March 13) at 10:30 a.m.

**Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 25-29** and is observed to increase awareness of, and response to, severe weather hazards. A statewide tornado drill is scheduled as part of the week on March 27.

“Severe Weather Awareness Week is designed to encourage Nebraskans to prepare for severe weather by making a safety plan and reviewing proper safety precautions for protecting their lives,” said Al Berndt, NEMA assistant director. “We hope the poster contest gives students an early lesson on preparedness that they can share with their families.”

Severe weather can result in tragic losses that preparation and planning can prevent. Through the poster contest, fourth graders from across the state encourage Nebraskans to follow weather safety precautions. **Jerome Silva**, 9, a St. Paul Elementary School, earned second place for his “KNOWLEDGE + PREPAREDNESS” poster that featured items to include in an emergency kit and information on tornado watches and warnings.

**Cleopatra Thomas**, 10, of Creighton, a St. Ludger Elementary student finished third. Her message was “Keep Safe in A Blizzard,” and it showcased items people should include in a vehicle survival kit.” Fourth place was awarded to **Izak Spann**, 9, of Wymore, a Southern Elementary School student. His poster “Keeping Safe During Nature’s Fury” outlined tornado and safety tips.

Posters were judged on originality, effort and accuracy. The top prize is a \$125 gift card, second is \$100 and third \$75 all sponsored by NAEM. NWS provides a \$50 gift card for fourth place. Each of the winners will receive a Weather Alert Radio courtesy of **B.J. Fictum**, Saline County Emergency Management director. NEMA has the four winning posters matted and framed for the students.

In addition, honorable mention certificates will be awarded to: **Josephine Anderson**, Crete Elementary School, Saline County; **Tristan Eifert**, Ponca Public School, Dixon County; **Isabella Fonfara-Drewel**, Holy Ghost Catholic School, Douglas County; **James Gallegos**, Willowdale Elementary, Douglas County; **Claire Gideon**, Burwell, Garfield County; **Tayla Goettsche**, St. Paul Public Schools, Howard County; **Elizabeth Gompert**, Gompert Home School, Knox County; **Andrew Heinrichs**, Thayer Central Intermediate School, Thayer County; **Jaiden Johnson**, Bloomfield Elementary School, Knox County; **Kaylee Klover**, Southern Elementary School, Gage County; **Abigail Lewis**, Loup County Public Schools, Loup County; **Camryn Morgan**, St. Paul Elementary School, Howard County; **Grace Olson**, Bassett Elementary School, Rock County; **Madelyn Portwine**, Cross County Elementary School, Polk County; **Samuel Runde**, Catlin Elementary, Douglas County; **Alyssa Salts**, Southern Elementary School, Gage County; **Ian Schildhauer**, Mary Lynch Elementary School, Kimball County.

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For more information on severe weather awareness visit:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/oax/?n=severeweek>

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gid/?n=severeawareness>

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/gid/WCM/SWAW2013.pdf>